

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Tom Rooney's (R-Fla.) amendment of H.R. 2811, to restrict the importation of specific breeds of pythons into the U.S., to H.R. 2811 passed the House Judiciary Committee. The amendment to H.R. 2811 will make it illegal to import of Burmese and African Rock Pythons into the United States. Dangerous pythons continue to cause extensive damage to the Florida Everglades and surrounding communities.

“Banning the importation of these dangerous pythons is one step towards getting this problem under control,” said Rooney. “The survival of the Everglades and the surrounding eco system relies on removing and halting the introduction of non-native wildlife such as pythons. It is estimated that as many as 150,000 Burmese Pythons are currently living in the Everglades, which cause severe damage to the native wildlife. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both side of the aisle on moving this legislation forward.

Between 2000 and 2004, roughly 65,000 Burmese Pythons were imported into the United States. To date, almost 1,000 Burmese Pythons have been removed from the Everglades. Congressman Rooney is committed to ending the introduction of these dangerous predators and eradicating them from the Everglades.